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Admiralty Office, October 16, 1797.

CAPTAIN Fairfax, of the Venerable, arrived early this Morning with Diſpatches from Adam Duncan, Eſq; Admiral of the Blue, Commander in Chief of His Majeſty's Ships, &c. employed in the North Sea, to Evan Nepean, Eſq; Secretary of the Admiralty, of which the following are Copies.

Venerable, at Sea, 13th October, 1797, off the Coaſt of Holland.

SIR,

BE pleaſed to acquaint the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty; that, judging it of Conſequence their Lordſhips ſhould have as early Information as poſſible of the Defeat of the Dutch Fleet under the Command of Admiral De Winter, I diſpatched the Roſe Cutter at Three P. M. on the 12th (11th) Inſtant, with a ſhort Letter to you immediately after the Action was ended. I have now further to acquaint you, for their Lordſhips Information, that in the Night of the 10th Inſtant, after I had ſent away my Letter to you of that Date, I placed my Squadron in ſuch Situation as to prevent the Enemy from returning to the Texel without my falling in with them. At Nine o'Clock in the Morning of the 11th I got Sight of Captain Trollope's Squadron, with Signals flying for an Enemy to Leeward; I immediately bore up, and made the Signal for a general Chace, and ſoon got Sight of them, forming in a Line on the Larboard Tack to receive us, the Wind at N. W. As we approached near I made the Signal for the Squadron to ſhorten Sail, in order to connect them; ſoon after I ſaw the Land between Camperdown and Egmont, about Nine Miles to Leeward of the Enemy, and finding there was no Time to be loſt in making the Attack, I made the Signal to bear up, break the Enemy's Line, and engage them to Leeward, each Ship her Opponent, by which I got between them and the Land, whither they were faſt approaching. My Signals were obeyed with great Promptitude, and Vice-Admiral Onſlow, in the Monarch, bore down on the Enemy's Rear in the moſt gallant Manner, his Diviſion following his Example, and the Action commenced about Forty Minutes paſt Twelve o'Clock. The Venerable ſoon got through the Enemy's Line, and I began a cloſe Action, with my Diviſion on their Van, which laſted near Two Hours and a Half, when I obſerved all the Maſts of the Dutch Admiral's Ship to go by the Board; ſhe was, however, defended for ſome Time in a moſt gallant Manner; but being overpreſſed by Numbers, her Colours were ſtruck, and Admiral DeWinter was ſoon brought on Board the Venerable. On looking around me I obſerved the Ship bearing the Vice-Admiral's Flag was alſo diſmaſted, and had ſurrendered to Vice-Admiral Onſlow; and that many others had likewiſe ſtruck. Finding we were in Nine Fathoms Water, and not farther than Five Miles from the Land, my Attention was ſo much taken up in getting the Heads of the diſabled Ships off Shore, that I was not able to diſtinguiſh the Number of Ships captured; and the Wind having been conſtantly on the Land ſince, we have unavoidably been much diſperſed, ſo that I have not been able to gain an exact Account of them, but we have taken Poſſeſſion of Eight or Nine; more of them had ſtruck, but taking Advantage of the Night,

and

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and being ſo near their own Coaſt, they ſucceeded in getting off, and ſome of them were ſeen going into the Texel the next Morning.

It is with the greateſt Pleaſure and Satisfaction I make known to their Lordſhips the very gallant Behaviour of Vice-Admiral Onſlow, the Captains, Officers, Seamen and Marines of the Squadron, who all appeared actuated with the truly Britiſh Spirit, at leaſt thoſe that I had an Opportunity of ſeeing.

One of the Enemy's Ships caught Fire in the Action, and drove very near the Venerable; but I have the Pleaſure to ſay it was extinguiſhed, and ſhe is one of the Ships in our Poſſeſſion. The Squadron has ſuffered much in their Maſts, Yards, and Rigging, and many of them have loſt a Number of Men; however, in no Proportion to that of the Enemy. The Carnage on board the Two Ships that bore the Admirals Flags has been beyond all Deſcription; they have had no leſs than Two Hundred and Fifty Men killed and wounded on Board of each Ship; and here I have to lament the Loſs of Captain Burgeſs, of His Majeſty's Ship the Ardent, who brought that Ship into Action in the moſt gallant and maſterly Manner, but was unfortunately killed ſoon after. However, the Ship continued the Action cloſe, until quite diſabled. The Public have loſt a good and gallant Officer in Captain Burgeſs, and I, with others, a ſincere Friend.

Captain Trollope's Exertions and active good Conduct in keeping Sight of the Enemy's Fleet until I came up, have been truly meritorious, and, I truſt, will meet a juſt Reward.

I ſend this by Captain Fairfax, by whoſe able Advice I profited much during the Action, and who will give their Lordſhips any further Particulars they may wiſh to know.

As moſt of the Ships of the Squadron are much diſabled, and ſeveral of the Prizes diſmaſted, I ſhall make the beſt of my Way with them to the Nore.

I herewith tranſmit you a Liſt of Killed and Wounded on Board each of the Squadron as I have been able to collect; a Liſt of the Enemy's Fleet oppoſed to my Squadron, and my Line of Battle on the Day of Action.

I am, SIR,
Your moſt obedient humble Servant,
ADAM DUNCAN.

A Liſt of Killed and Wounded on Board the Ships of Admiral Duncan's Squadron in an Action with the Dutch on the 11th of October, 1797.

Venerable.—13 Seamen, 2 Marines, killed; 6 Officers, 52 Seamen, 4 Marines, wounded.—Total 77.

Monarch.—2 Officers, 34 Seamen, killed; 9 Officers, 79 Seamen, 12 Marines, wounded.—Total 136.

Bedford.—2 Midſhipmen, 26 Seamen, 2 Marines, killed; 1 Lieutenant, 37 Seamen, 3 Marines, wounded.—Total 71.

Powerful.—8 Seamen, 2 Marines, killed; 4 Officers, 74 Seamen and Marines, wounded.—Total 88.

Iſis.—1 Seaman, 1 Marine, killed; 3 Officers, 18 Seamen, wounded.—Total 23.

Ardent.—2 Officers, 33 Seamen, 6 Marines, killed; 8 Officers, 85 Seamen, 11 Marines, 3 Boys, wounded.—Total 148.

Agincourt.—None killed or wounded.

Belliqueux.—2 Officers, 20 Seamen, 3 Marines, killed; 3 Officers, 63 Seamen, 12 Marines, wounded.—Total 103.

Lancaſter.—3 Seamen killed; 2 Officers, 13 Seamen, 3 Marines, wounded. Total 21.

Triumph.—25 Seamen, 3 Marines, 1 Boy, killed; 5 Officers, 50 Seamen and Marines, wounded.—Total 84.

OFFICERS KILLED.

Monarch.—Mr. J. P. Tindall and Mr. Moyle Finlay, Midſhipmen.

Ardent.—Captain Burgeſs, Mr. Michael Dunn, Maſter.

Belliqueux.—Lieutenant Robert Webſter, Mr. James Milne, Maſter's Mate.

OFFICERS WOUNDED.

Venerable.—Lieutenants Clay and Douglas, Lieutenant Chambers of the Marines, Mr. Stewart, Midſhipman, Mr. Brown, Pilot.

Monarch.—Lieutenant Retalick, Lieutenant Smith of the Marines, Mr. George Maſſie, Mr. Benjamin Clement, Mr. Daniel Sherwin, Mr. Charles Slade, Midſhipmen, Mr. John Chimley, Maſter's Mate.

Bedford.—Lieutenant Keenor.

Powerful.—Lieutenant Jennings, Mr. Mel. Jones, Boatſwain, Mr. Daniel Rogers, Midſhipman, Lieutenant Walker of the Marines.

Iſis.—Lieutenant Charles Rea of the Marines, Mr. Simon Fraſer and Mr. John Walker, Midſhipmen.

Ardent.—Lieutenant James Roſe, Lieutenant John Sobriel, Captain Cuthbert of Marines, Mr. John Tracy, Maſter's Mate, Mr. John Airey, Maſter's Mate, Mr. Thomas Leopard, Midſhipman, Mr. John Taylor, Captain's Clerk, ſlightly, Mr. George Killiar, Midſhipman, ſlightly.

Belliqueux.—Lieutenant Robert England, ſlightly, Captain James Caſſel of Marines, ſlightly, Mr. James Scott, Midſhipman.

Lancaſter.—Lieutenant Morgan, Lieutenant Sandys of the Marines.

Triumph.—Captain Eſſington, ſlightly in the Arm; Mr. Chapman, Firſt Lieutenant, ſlightly in the Head; Mr. Trollope, Third Lieutenant, ſlightly in the Foot; Mr. Read, Maſter, ſlightly bruiſed; Mr. Jones, Midſhipman, ſlightly in the Face.

ADAM DUNCAN.

Liſt and Diſpoſition of the Dutch Fleet on the 11th of October, 1797.

VAN.

Vice-Admiral Reyntjes, Commander.

Cerberus, Captain Jacobſon, 68 Guns, 450 Men.

Delft, Captain Verdoorn, 56 Guns, 375 Men.—Taken.

Jupiter, Vice-Admiral Reyntjes and Rear-Admiral Meuſes, 74 Guns, 550 Men.—Taken.

Alkmaar, Captain Kraft, 56 Guns, 350 Men.—Taken.

Hærlem, Captain Wiggerts, 68 Guns, 450 Men.—Taken.
Munnikkendam, Captain Lancaſter, 44 Guns, 270 Men.—Taken.
Heldin, Captain Dumiſnilde L'Eeſtrille, 32 Guns, 230 Men.
Daphne Brig, Lieutenant Fredericks, 18 Guns, 98 Men.

CENTER.

Admiral De Winter, Commander in Chief.

Waſſenaer, Captain Holland, 64 Guns, 450 Men.—Taken.
Batavier, Captain Souters, 56 Guns, 350 Men.
Vryheid, (the Liberty) Admiral De Winter Van Roſſem, 74 Guns, 550 Men.—Taken.
States General, Rear-Admiral Story, 74 Guns, 550 Men.
Leyden, Captain Muſquetier, 68 Guns, 450 Men.
Mars, Captain Kolff, 44 Guns, 400 Men.
Waakſaamheid, Captain-Lieutenant Nicrop, 24 Guns, 150 Men.
Minerva, Captain Eilbracht, 24 Guns, 150 Men.
Galatea Brig, Lieutenant Rivery, 18 Guns, 98 Men.
Atalanta Brig, Lieutenant Plets, 18 Guns, 98 Men.

REAR.

Rear-Admiral Bloys, Commander.

Admiral Devries, Captain Zegers, 68 Guns, 450 Men.—Taken.
Hercules, Captain Van Ryſoort, 64 Guns, 450 Men.—Taken.
Brutus, Rear-Admiral Bloys, 74 Guns, 550 Men.
Beſchermer, Captain Hinxtt, 56 Guns, 350 Men.
Gelykheid, (the Equality) Captain Ruyſen, 68 Guns, 450 Men.—Taken.
Ambuſcade, Captain-Lieutenant Huys, 32 Guns, 270 Men.—Taken.
Ajax Brig, Lieutenant Arkenbout, 18 Guns, 98 Men.
Haasje (Aviſo) Lieutenant Hartenfeld, 6 Guns, 35 Men.

ADAM DUNCAN.

N. B. Another Line of Battle Ship, reported to be taken, Name unknown.

Diſpoſition of the Squadron, in the Order of Battle, on the 11th of October, 1797.

LARBOARD, or LEE DIVISON.

Richard Onſlow, Eſq; Vice-Admiral of the Red, Commander.

1. Ruſſel, Henry Trollope, Captain, 74 Guns, 590 Men.
2. Director, William Bligh, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
3. Montagu, John Knight, Captain, 74 Guns, 590 Men.
4. Veteran, George Gregory, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
5. Monarch, Vice-Admiral Onſlow, Edward O'Bryen, Captain, 74 Guns, 599 Men.
6. Powerful, William O'Bryen Drury, Captain, 74 Guns, 590 Men.
7. Monmouth, James Walker, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
8. Agincourt, John Williamſon, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.

REPEATERS,

Beaulieu Frigate—Cutters Roſe, King George, Active, Diligent—Speculator Lugger.

STARBOARD, or WEATHER DIVISION.

Adam Duncan, Eſq; Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

9. Triumph, William Henry Effington, Captain, 74 Guns, 640 Men.
10. Venerable, Admiral Duncan, William George Fairfax, Captain, 74 Guns, 593 Men.
11. Ardent, Richard R. Burgeſs, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
12. Bedford, Sir Thomas Byard, Captain, 74 Guns, 590 Men.
13. Lancaſter, John Wells, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
14. Belliqueux, John Inglis, Captain, 64 Guns, 491 Men.
15. Adamant, William Hotham, Captain, 50 Guns, 343 Men.
16. Iſis, William Mitchell, Captain, 50 Guns, 343 Men.

REPEATERS,

Circe, Frigate.—Martin Sloop.

ADAM DUNCAN.

Venerable, off Orfordneſs, October 15, 1797.

SIR,

IN Addition to my Letter of the 13th Inſtant, containing the Particulars of the Action of the 11th, and which I have not been able to ſend away until this Day, I have to acquaint you, for the Information of the Lords Commiſſioners of the Admiralty, that, from the Wind continuing to blow on the Dutch Coaſt, the Ships have had great Difficulty in keeping off the Shore, and that we have unavoidably been ſeparated. On Friday laſt the Wind blew ſtrong from the W. S. W. to W. N. W. and continued ſo to do until Saturday Morning; it then ſhifted to the North, when I made the Signal to wear, ſtood to the Weſtward, and fortunately anchored here laſt Evening, the Venerable being ſo leaky, that, with all her Pumps going, we could but juſt keep her free. This Morning I obſerved the Ships named in the Margin * at Anchor near us, Three near the Kentiſh Knock, and Three in Hoſley Bay. The Wind is at N. W. and much againſt the diſabled Ships: I have therefore ſent the Lancaſter and Beaulieu out to render them Aſſiſtance.

Sir Thomas Williams, in the Endymion, who joined me the Day after the Action, I alſo ſent in Shore, to keep by and aſſiſt the diſabled Ships; and I am informed that, in the Courſe of the Night, he fell in with a Dutch Ship of the Line off the Texel, and had engaged her, but I have not heard the Particulars.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

ADAM DUNCAN.

Evan Nepean, Eſq;

* Monarch, Powerful, Lancaſter, Beaulieu.

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